

Message Text

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63

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 H-02 ISO-00 /003 W

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P R 081545Z MAR 76

FM AMCONSUL MAZATLAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0633

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS MAZATLAN 0087

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC

SUBJ: HEPATITIS AMONG AMERICANS IMPRISONED IN MAZATLAN

REF: MAZATLAN 0080

1. OF SEVEN PRISONERS WHO HAVE HAD HEPATITIS RECENTLY, FOUR HAVE RECOVERED. ONE NEW CASE HAS DEVELOPED SINCE THE INNOCULATIONS ON MARCH 1. NET, NOW FOUR CASES.
2. CONOFF SPOKE MARCH 5 WITH DR. GUZMAN WHO PERFORMED INNOCULATIONS. DOCTOR OPINED THAT HEPATITIS OUTBREAK NOW ON DECLINE AND THAT HE BELIEVED INNOCULATION PROGRAM CONTRIBUTED TO DOWNWARD TREND.
3. CONOFF VISITED CARCEL MUNICIPAL AND SPOKE WITH PRISON WARDEN ON MARCH 5. WARDEN AYALA STATED THAT WITHOUT U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE IN SUPPLYING GAMMA GLOBULIN HE WOULD HAVE BEEN HELPLESS TO DO ANYTHING IN THIS SITUATION. HE EXPLAINED THAT HE RECEIVES FUNDS FROM THE CITY WHICH IS IN BAD ECONOMIC SITUATION AND PROVIDES NO MONIES FOR MEDICINES. WARDEN ADDED THAT HIS ONLY SOURCE OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES IS GETTING PHYSICIANS' SAMPLES FROM VARIOUS LOCAL DOCTORS. CONOFF AGAIN POINTED OUT RESPONSIBILITY MEXICAN GOVERNMENT MAINTAIN HEALTH OF PRISONERS BUT WARDEN INSISTED THERE WAS NOTHING HE COULD DO AND MUST CONTINUE DEPEND UPON U. S. GOVERNMENT FOR ASSISTANCE IN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SITUATIONS SUCH AS THIS.

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4. CONOFF PLANS DISCUSS MEDICAL STATUS OF MAZATLAN PRISONERS

WITH MAYOR AND WILL ADVISE RESULTS. MEANWHILE IF OPPORTUNITY
OCCURS FOR EMBASSY TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER AT FEDERAL LEVEL,
IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

5. WILL CONTINUE MONITOR SITUATION AND SEND PROGRESS REPORTS.
MATTHEWS

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